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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

HANDLING OF EPHEMERAL MATERIAL

A great deal of ephemeral material is received regularly at the Armed Forces Medical Library. Such material consists of slight reprints, minor biographical items, popular pamphlets on public health and hygiene, advertising pamphlets from drug manufacturers, and brief informational items about various societies and institutions.

Obviously, this type of publication should be housed and cataloged as inexpensively as possible. To effect this, certain short cuts have been devised which permit the cataloging of a group of material by the use of a single catalog record. Biographical material which may consist of a brief sketch of a man's life, an obituary, proceedings of a testimonial dinner given in his honor, or a statement of his academic training and career, is listed in the Author Catalog only under the man's name. Instead of giving titles of individual items, a note states that biographical material on that person will be found in a certain place on the shelves. This place is determined by the usual call number which is automatically assigned.

A like procedure is followed for the minor items issued by or about medical societies, institutions, drug manufacturing companies, and similar organizations. This type of publication is usually asked for under the name of the society or institution, and individual titles are relatively unimportant. The note on cards for this sort of material directs the user to a collection of miscellaneous publications of the organization. Here, too, the classification is usually routine.

For material on various diseases, on certain popular drugs, or on different phases of hygiene or sanitation, where the chief interest is in a subject rather than a person or organization, the catalog approach is through that topic. Popular pamphlets on heart disease, for example, intended as helps to the patient, or publications advertising specific nostrums for heart disease, are grouped together,

Printing cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

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given a general classification number for the diseases of the heart, and listed in the Subject Catalog only, under a collective card with the heading: HEART - DISEASES.

There are some items, of course, that seem to have two almost equally important approaches. Many pamphlets on heart disease are issued by societies that are organized solely in the interest of that ailment. In such cases, the material is listed in the Author Catalog under the name of the organization, and an additional card is placed in the Subject Catalog under the appropriate heading

The cost of preparing pamphlets and reprints for the shelves is also considered To put each individual item in a binder is far too costly. Therefore, the publications are placed in heavy envelopes, labeled, and sent to the shelves. As the material accumulates and an envelope becomes full, the contents may be weeded. Items considered by the Reference Division to be no longer of interest are discarded; those having lasting value are collected and bound for permanent protection

In a library as large as the Armed Forces Medical Library constant vigilance is required to effect economies. The above is one of the ways in which we strive for this goal.

REPORT OF ADVISORY GROUP

The special report of the AFML Advisory Group, mentioned in the last issue of the News, was submitted to the Surgeon General of the Army on 12 February. The Advisory Group submitted its report under five headings: an introduction describing certain background facts pertinent to the problem, a restatement of the mission of the Library in thirteen areas, a statement of the need for basic legislation, a description of workloads and their relationship to budgetary matters, and a summary of recommendations. These were to the effect that the Armed Forces Medical Library continue to be the National Medical Library, and that its programs be supported accordingly; that previously submitted draft legislation defining the status of the Library be forwarded to the Congress; that the Library's mission as stated in the report be reaffirmed; that the personnel level of the Library be gradually increased in order to cope effectively with the demands of increasing medical research and medical publication; and that the program for a new Library building be got under way as soon as possible.

The report of the Advisory Group is to be presented to the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council at their meeting on 2 March.

EXHIBIT

The March exhibit, prepared by Miss Charlotte Kenton f the Reference Division, will be devoted to Dr. William ithering and his medical, botanical, and mineralogical tudies. Withering's work on foxglove will also be featured n the March exhibit at the Medical Museum of the Armed orces Institute of Pathology on "Herbs in Medicine, Past nd Present."

NEW PERSONNEL CEILINGS

The authorized civilian personnel level at the Armed orces Medical Library has remained at 240 for a little over year. On 10 February 1953, the number of personnel on uty was 237, but on that day a directive was received which froze" our authorization at the actual strength figure of l January 1953, which happened to be 230. Thus the Library ost ten positions, despite the fact that its workload has ncreased 20% during the last year. Necessary reductions ill be made through attrition. All divisions of the ibrary will share in the reduction; the Acquisition, atalog, and Reference Divisions will lose two positions ach, while other divisions will lose one each. No vacancy ccurring anywhere in the Library may be filled until the ew "freeze" ceiling has been reached.

AFML FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The AFML Federal Credit Union, chartered in December 952, held its first annual meeting on 22 January 1953 and lected the following Board of Directors: Mrs. Geneva T. reene, Miss Eleanor R. Hasting, Mr. Harold F. Koehler (for ne-year terms); Mrs. Margaret T. Reese and Mr. Seymour I. aine (for two-year terms). The Credit Committee and Superisory Committee members elected at the organization meeting n 8 December 1952 were reelected. At the meeting of the oard of Directors immediately following the annual meeting, iss Hasting was elected President, Mr. Koehler Vice Presient, and Mrs. Reese Treasurer.

The purpose of the Credit Union is "to promote thrift mong its members by affording them an opportunity for accuulating their savings, and to create for them a source of redit for provident or productive purposes."

CATALOG CHIEF RETURNS

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald has resumed her duties as Assistant Librarian for Cataloging, AFML, after a period of more than three months during which she was on loan to the Department of State, serving as a United States specialist at the American Memorial Library in Berlin.

DIRECTOR'S CALENDAR

The beginning of last month found the Director in Chicago, where he represented the Armed Forces Medical Library at the meeting of the Association of Research Libraries held at the Technological Institute of Northwestern University. He also attended sessions of the Institute on Library Building Plans, held in conjunction with the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. He spent one day at the Headquarters of the American Medical Association as the guest of Mr. Ralph P. Creer, Executive Secretary of the AMA's Committee on Medical Motion Pictures. Before leaving Chicago, he attended a meeting of the Joint Committee on the Union List of Serials (Mr. Wyllis E. Wright, Chairman), substituting for Mr. Kanardy L. Taylor, who is the MLA delegate on this Committee.

On 18 February, Lieutenant Colonel Rogers addressed an informal luncheon meeting of persons interested in the exchange of scientific and technical information (science attachés, information officers, librarians) held at the Whittall Pavilion of the Library of Congress.

For three days beginning 22 February, Colonel Rogers was at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, at the invitation of the Commanding General, Air University, serving as a member of the Committee for Better Integration of Technical and Research Libraries of the Air Force, under the chairmanship of Dr. Jerrold Orne, Director, Air University Library. Other members of the Committee are Mr. Paul J. Burnette, Army Library, Mr. Harry Cook, Headquarters, USAF, Mrs. Ruth Hooker, U. S. Navy, Mr. Eugene Jackson, NACA, Mr. W. Kenneth Lowry, Air Research and Development Command, and Mr. Foster Mohrhardt, Veterans Administration.

On 26 February, Colonel Rogers spoke before the conference of Army Surgeons and Class II Hospital Commanders held at the Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army; and on 27 February he addressed members of the Johns Hopkins Medical and Surgical Association at their biennial meeting in Baltimore.

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